

Towers

Excerpts from Journal

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Wednesday - 24 August 1960

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3. [] In response to his question of yesterday, I advised BeLieu that for his information and the information of Committee members, we were continuing Powers' pay and allotments in much the same manner as would be done in the case of a missing person in the military. I also advised him that some of these funds were being placed in escrow accounts for future payment. We discussed the case informally and I advised BeLieu that based on the news accounts our present feeling was that Powers had conducted himself quite well at the trial. BeLieu said he agreed and felt we were doing the right thing concerning salary accruals.

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5. [] James Ramey, Staff Director of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, requested information concerning the continuation of the salary of Powers. He said that Congressman Durham (who was not present at the Director's briefing of the Joint Committee) had asked him to get this information. Ramey was given the same information as was provided BeLieu on this subject, i. e., that for Durham's information we are continuing Powers' pay and allotments some of which are going to Mrs. Powers but so far as open correspondence is concerned, the statements by the State Department to the effect that "arrangements have been made to continue Powers' salary" should be used.

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6. [] Mr. Fanelli, on Senator Bush's staff, called to say that the Senator had received several letters from rather irate citizens who were objecting to the continuation of Powers' salary. Fanelli wanted to know whether Powers' salary was being continued, if so for how long and whether Mrs. Powers was getting any funds over and above her husband's salary. Fanelli was given the same information provided Mr. BeLieu and Ramey on this subject with the additional information that there was no time factor involved in the payments and that Mrs. Powers was not receiving additional funds. In response to his specific question as to whether Powers had breached his contract, he was advised that on the information obtained from the trial there was no indication that Powers had violated any of his instructions. Fanelli said he was sure he could handle this correspondence without attributing any information to the Agency.